



Southeast Perspective

a publication of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

October - November '98

Southeast Conference Women's Retreat *"God's Amistad: Invitation to the Table"*

All women of the Southeast Conference are invited to the Women's Retreat, to be held **November 20-22** at the Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega, Alabama. Through the theme "God's Amistad: Invitation to the Table," the retreat will celebrate our rich heritage and emphasize the importance of gathering around God's table, where friendship and love are priorities.

The weekend will be filled with varied opportunities that will focus on the local church, social justice, personal and spiritual development. Conference Associate Joyce Hollyday will be the keynote speaker. A variety of workshops will be offered, as well as a visit to the Amistad mural at Talladega College, to learn more about this significant event and the history of the American Missionary Association that grew from it.

Plan to come to the "feast." It will be a celebration of inclusion. Registration deadline is October 30. For more information, contact Kathryn Robinson (205) 591-1696, Nancy Sales (205) 591-8909, or Betty Stark (931) 277-5123.

Conference Clips

☐ **Clergy of the Southeast Conference** will be gathering October 14-15 in Lanett, AL, with John Thomas, Assistant to the President for Ecumenical Concerns of the UCC. The retreat will include times of worship. Discussion will focus on the essential ingredients of faith, and how to find unity in the midst of diversity.

☐ Members of the **Covenant for Renewal** team will meet October 9 at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Chattanooga, TN. First Congregational Christian Church in Birmingham, AL, has invited team members Vant Hardaway and Joyce Hollyday to facilitate a retreat October 23-25 as part of the Covenant for Renewal process. Jones Chapel United Congregational Christian Church in Woodbury, GA, and Central Congregational Church in Atlanta, GA, anticipate involvement with the Covenant for Renewal.

☐ **Rev. Helen Pearson**, Candler School of Theology, has been chosen to serve on the 16-member worship planning committee of the Eighth Assembly of the World Council of Churches. The Assembly, which marks the Jubilee Year (50th anniversary) of the WCC will be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in December.

☐ **Rev. Dan Rosemergy**, pastor of Brookmeade Congregational Church, Nashville, was elected convenor and spokesperson of a five-member State and Local Interfaith Alliance Committee. The Interfaith Alliance was founded in 1994 to promote a mainstream, faith-based, alternative voice to that of religious political extremists.

☐ **Rev. Budd Friend-Jones**, pastor of Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, has become an oblate (lay associate) of St. John's Abbey, Order of St. Benedict, Collegeville, Minnesota.

TRANSITIONS

Virginia Brown was installed as pastor of Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Birmingham, Alabama, on July 12.

William Lloyd was installed as pastor on September 20 at Trinity United Church in Hampton, Georgia.

Jones Chapel United Congregational Christian Church in Woodbury, Georgia, will install **James Schwarzlose** on November 1 during its 11:00 a.m. service.

The Service of Ordination and Installation for Conference Associate Joyce Hollyday will take place at First Congregational Church, Atlanta, Georgia, on November 29 at 3:00 p.m. We hope the whole Conference will be present for this special celebration!

From Our Missionaries

Karl and Jan Whiteman send greetings from the Marshall Islands and Micronesia. Karl is a liaison pastor and theological education instructor, and Jan is an elementary educator. They report with rejoicing that the drought has ended and remind us of the words of Psalm 147:8--"God covers the sky with clouds; God supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills"--"and atolls," they add, "we don't have hills here." Please keep our missionaries and their good work in your prayers.

Good News from Around the UCC

The UCC's Calvin Synod has elected a new bishop. **Rev. Louis Medgyesi**, pastor of Hungarian Reformed UCC in Fairport Harbor, Ohio, fled as a child with his family from the Hungarian revolt in 1956. "The only friend I had in these United States when I was 10 years old was Jesus," he says. Rev. Medgyesi will head a group of 32 Hungarian Reformed churches in the UCC.

UCC President **Rev. Paul H. Sherry** joined 22 other religious leaders in urging the Clinton administration and the U.S. Senate to approve the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement on global warming to fight climate change. The treaty calls on industrialized nations to deeply cut emissions of heat-trapping gases that come from burning fossil fuels.

October 8 is **A Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence**. Students have an opportunity to sign a voluntary pledge that they will never carry a gun to school or resolve a dispute with a gun, and will encourage others to do the same. For more information, visit the Student Pledge web site at www.pledge.org.

The **UCC Attorneys' Network** was recently founded to bring together attorneys to offer guidance and expertise to the UCC on social justice issues. For information, contact Deborah Winfrey Keene at (517) 485-3232.

Coming Up

Roy M. Oswald will lead "**New Visions for the Long Pastorate**," October 21-24, 1998, at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. The conference will focus on such issues as clergy burnout, the gap between expectations and reality, pitfalls in evaluation, and strategic planning. Contact Diane Thorne (404) 687-4562; fax: (404) 687-4591; e-mail: ThorneD@CTSnet.edu).

The fifth "**Children, Church, and Community**" national conference will be held November 12-14, 1998, at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Sponsored by the seminary and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the conference seeks to celebrate the power of children, equip them for discipleship, and include them fully in worship. For more information or a scholarship application, contact Patricia Goldberg at UCBHM (216) 736-3799; or at Eden Seminary contact Ann Schroer (314) 962-7517 or Marsha Goddard 1-800-969-3627, ext. 325.

"**Journeys in Prayer: Psalms and Stories for the Transformation of the Heart**" is a spirituality event to be held at the La Foret Conference and Retreat Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, July 11-17, 1999. Retreat leaders will be Roberta and Richard Bondi. Participants may choose to take part for four days or the full week. The full week event will involve spiritual disciplines, including silence for 12 hours each day. Contact the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC office (303) 984-9118; fax: (303) 980-6695.

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

CALENDAR OF PRAYER

- October 11** Trinity Congregational Church, Athens, AL (Paul Moore, pastor);
Good Hope Congregational Church, Baker, FL (George Kell, pastor)
- October 18** Evergreen Congregational Church (Artis Johnson, pastor);
Bethany Congregational Church (Ellis Carr, pastor)
both in Thomasville, GA
- October 25** Our Nashville, TN Churches:
Brookmeade Congregational Church (Dan Rosemergy, pastor);
First United Church (James Smalley, Jr., pastor);
Howard Congregational Church (Wilson Welch, Jr., pastor)
- November 1** First Congregational Church, Marion, AL (Eulas Kirtdoll, pastor);
First Congregational Church, Talladega, AL (Milton Hurst, pastor)
- November 8** Deer Lodge Congregational Church, Deer Lodge, TN (Craig Fairall, pastor);
Fairfield Glade Community Church, Fairfield Glade, TN (Dale Marshall, pastor);
United Community Church, Waverly, TN (Gary Reyes, pastor)
- November 15** Church of the Savior, Knoxville, TN (John Gill, pastor)
- November 22** United Church, Huntsville, AL (James Norris, pastor);
Congregational Christian Church, Garden City, AL (Angela Wright, pastor)
- November 29** First Congregational Church, Alexander City, AL (Deacon Elmer Alford);
Elder United Church of Christ, Dadeville, AL (Wayde Washburn, pastor);
East Tallassee United Congregational Christian Church, East Tallassee, AL
(James McAdams, pastor);
United Congregational Christian Church, Columbus, GA (James Johnson, pastor)
- December 6** Hillside Christian Church, LaGrange, GA (Ralph Lee, pastor);
Russell Woods Congregational Church, Phenix City, AL (Warner Noles, pastor)
- December 13** Congregational Christian Church, Lanett, AL (Roy Bain, pastor);
Corinth Christian Church, Wadley, AL (Ricky Cummings, interim pastor)
- December 20** Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, GA
(Budd Friend-Jones and Kristi Denham, pastors);
Jones Chapel United Congregational Christian Church, Woodbury, GA
(James Schwarzlose, pastor)
- December 27** First Congregational Christian Church, Birmingham, AL (Rodney Franklin, pastor);
Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church, Pine Mountain, GA (Dan Garrett, pastor)
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The Conference Calendar

OCTOBER

3
Pilgrim Congregational Church Retreat
Birmingham, AL

5
Finance Committee Meeting
Atlanta, GA

9
Covenant for Renewal Team Training
Pilgrim Congregational Church
Chattanooga, TN

14-15
SEC Clergy Retreat
Congregational Christian Church
Lanett, AL

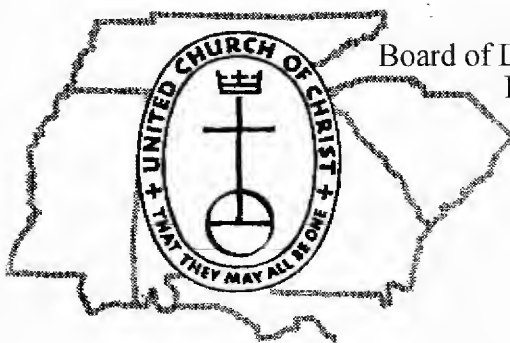
17
EAL/WGA Annual Meeting
North Main Congregational
Christian Church
Roanoke, AL

19
South DeKalb Church Start Committee
Conference Call

23-25
First Congregational Christian Church
Retreat
Birmingham, AL

30
EAL/WGA Clergy Gathering
Ryan's Restaurant
LaGrange, GA

31
SAL/NWFL Annual Meeting
(Rescheduled)



NOVEMBER

1
Installation of James Schwarzlose
Jones Chapel United Congregational
Christian Church
Woodbury, GA

7
GA/SC Church & Ministry Committee Meeting
Marietta, GA

ALA/TENN Executive Committee Meeting
Huntsville, AL

13-14
Board of Directors & Program Planning Meeting
First Congregational, Birmingham, AL

20-22
SEC Women's Retreat
Shocco Springs Retreat Center
Talladega, AL

24
DOC & UCC Clergy Meeting
Peachtree Christian Church
Atlanta, GA

26-27
SEC Office Closed
for Thanksgiving Holiday

29
Ordination and Installation of Joyce Hollyday
First Congregational Church
Atlanta, GA

News, updates, calendar of prayer and more!

Southeast Conference
of the
United Church of Christ
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